

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A fully variable hydraulic valve drive comprising a hydraulic drive unit which is acted upon with hydraulic fluid for opening and closing a valve wherein the drive unit of the valve in the closing or opening stroke movement acts on an intermediate storage means with hydraulic fluid under pressure, wherein this hydraulic fluid which is stored under pressure in the intermediate storage means then drives the drive unit of the valve again in the opposite stroke movement.

Claim 2 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the valve is accelerated and decelerated in the opening or in the closing stroke movement or in both stroke movements in the form of a free oscillator.

Claim 3 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 2 wherein a control valve holds the valve fast in the opened and closed condition.

Claim 4 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein an opening or a closing stroke movement or both movements of the valve is or are effected in a hydraulic system which is closed in that time interval and which comprises an intermediate storage means, a drive unit of the valve, and a control valve.

Claim 5 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the valve drive drives inlet or exhaust valves or both types of valves.

Claim 6 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the stroke travel of the valve is adjustable.

Claim 7 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein compensation for the losses caused by friction and leakage is effected by make-up supply of pressurized hydraulic fluid from a supply line.

Claim 8 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the opening and closing moment of the valve is freely controllable.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the stroke movement of the valve is controlled by the filling pressure ~~obtaining~~ in the intermediate storage means ~~in the closed condition of the valve, when the valve is closed.~~

Claim 10 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the opening time of a control valve regulates the filling pressure of the intermediate storage means in the closed condition of the valve.

Claim 11 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the setting values are stored in dependence on various influencing parameters.

Claim 12 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 11 wherein the influencing parameter is the temperature of the oil or the temperature of the cylinder head or the boost condition or a combination thereof.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein filling pressure is in the intermediate storage means, when the valve is closed ~~filling pressure obtains in the intermediate storage means~~.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the valve is opened by means of the filling pressure ~~obtaining~~ in the intermediate storage means.

Claim 15 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the drive unit of the valve is in the form of a differential cylinder.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 15 wherein ~~the~~ supply pressure ~~obtains~~ is in the right-hand cylinder chamber of the differential cylinder.

Claim 17 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the drive unit of the valve is in the form of a cylinder with a spring return or in the form of a plunger cylinder.

Claim 18 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the intermediate storage means is in the form of a volume representing a hydraulic capacitance.

Claim 19 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage means is in the form of a volume representing a hydraulic capacitance.

Claim 20 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the intermediate storage means is in the form of a gas-filled hydraulic storage means or in the form of a diaphragm or a balloon or a piston storage means or in the form of a combination thereof.

Claim 21 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage means is in the form of a gas-filled hydraulic storage means or in the form of a diaphragm or a balloon or a piston storage means or in the form of a combination thereof

Claim 22 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein measurement of the position of the engine valve is effected inductively, ~~or~~ optically or capacitively, or by pressure measurement in the intermediate storage means, ~~or in the~~ storage means or in the chamber.

Claim 23 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein a pressure pick-up measures the pressure obtaining in the intermediate storage means or the storage means or in the chamber.

Claim 24 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the hydraulic drive unit is a piston cylinder unit.

Claim 25 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 1 wherein the valve drive is acted upon with hydraulic fluid for opening and closing a valve of an internal combustion engine.

Claim 26 (original): A fully variable hydraulic valve drive comprising at least one control valve and a hydraulic drive unit which is acted upon with hydraulic fluid for opening and closing a valve wherein the drive unit of the valve in the closing or opening stroke movement acts on an intermediate storage means with hydraulic fluid under pressure wherein the control valve or valves is or are switched only when the hydraulic fluid volume flow flowing therethrough is less than 20% of the maximum volume flow flowing therethrough.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the control valve or valves is or are switched only when the hydraulic fluid volume flow flowing therethrough is less than 10% of the maximum volume flow flowing therethrough.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein ~~when the valve is closed~~ filling pressure ~~obtains~~ is in the intermediate storage means, when the valve is closed.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the valve is opened by means of the filling pressure ~~obtaining~~ in the intermediate storage means.

Claim 30 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the drive unit of the valve is in the form of a differential cylinder.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 30 wherein the supply pressure ~~obtains~~ is in the right-hand cylinder chamber of the differential cylinder.

Claim 32 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the drive unit of the valve is in the form of a cylinder with a spring return or in the form of a plunger cylinder.

Claim 33 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the intermediate storage means is in the form of a volume representing a hydraulic capacitance.

Claim 34 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the storage means is in the form of a volume representing a hydraulic capacitance.

Claim 35 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the intermediate storage means is in the form of a gas-filled hydraulic storage means or in the form of a diaphragm or a balloon or a piston storage means or in the form of a combination thereof.

Claim 36 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the storage means is in the form of a gas-filled hydraulic storage means or in the form of a diaphragm or a balloon or a piston storage means or in the form of a combination thereof.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein measurement of the position of the engine valve is effected inductively, ~~or~~ optically or capacitively, ~~or~~ by pressure measurement in the intermediate storage means, ~~or in the~~ storage means or in the chamber.

Claim 38 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein a pressure pick-up measures the pressure obtaining in the intermediate storage means or the storage means or in the chamber.

Claim 39 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the hydraulic unit is a piston cylinder unit.

Claim 40 (original): A valve drive as set forth in claim 26 wherein the valve drive is acted upon with hydraulic fluid for opening and closing a valve of an internal combustion engine.